

# Trough Magic

By Joan Day

Welcome

Joan's garden

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Troughs demonstrating the definition of trough gardening

Two styles of troughs: formed and free-form

Troughs showing the two styles

7-15. Showing the different styles of troughs and sizes of troughs; how they can be displayed in the garden

16-25. Soil diversity: Planting your trough

26. Different companion plants to use with miniature hostas

27. *Astilbe simplicifolia* 'William Buchanan'

28. *Astilbe crispa* 'Perkeo'

29. *Thalictrum kiusianum*

30. Miniature ferns: *Cystopteris bulbifera* and self-seeded Japanese painted ferns

31. Miniature ferns: *Camptosorus rhizophyllus* (Walking Fern), *Woodsia polystichoides*, *Cystopteris bulbifera* (Bulblet Fern)

32. Miniature goatsbeard: *Aruncus aethusifolius*

33. Miniature Heucheras: 'Petite Pearl Fairy' and 'Petite Lime Sherbet'

34. *Viola grypoceras* (Korean violet)

35. *Viola pedatifida* (Crow Foot Violet) and *Viola dissecta* (Japanese Fern Violet)

36. *Cymbalaria muralis* 'Alba Compacta' and *Cymbalaria muralis* (Kenilworth Ivy)

37. *Saxifraga veitchiana*, *Saxifraga fortunei* 'Silver Velvet', *Saxifraga umbrosa* 'Elliot's Variety'

38. Miniature *Aquilegia* (Columbine)

39. *Polygonatum humile* (Dwarf Solomon Seal)

40. Tufa rock, Moss, Fern, *Saxifraga* (*veitchiana*)

41. Slides showing how hypertufa troughs support the growth of moss

42. Dwarf Conifers (Tsugas/ Hemlocks)

43. *Picea orientalis*, *Hosta* 'Twist of Lime'

44. Annuals: Magical color for your miniature landscape, Dwarf Hawaiian Impatiens

45. Dwarf Double Hawaiian Impatiens

46. *Bellium minuta*, Miniature Daisy

47. *Erodium reichardii* (Heron's Bill 'Roseum') and *Erodium chamaedryoides* (Crane's Bill 'Dark Eyes')

48. *Leptinella* syn. *Cortula* (Brass Buttons)

49. Magical Jewel for the sunny trough 'Drosanthemum hispidum'

50. Dahlberg Daisy (self seeds)

51. Other great plants to use in a sunny trough

52. *Sempervivum arachnoideum* and *Jovibarba hirta*

53. *Jovibarba heuffelii*: Do not reproduce by stolons

54. Sedums

55. Sun-loving miniatures for your troughs (*Phlox*, *Veronica*, *Antennaria*, *Lysimachia*, *Orostachy* and *Thyme*)

56. *Dianthus petraeus* ssp. *noeanus*

57. Newly grafted Dwarf Conifers

58. Miniature conifers

59. Miniature conifers in stone troughs

60. *Pinus strobus* 'Sea Urchin'

61. *Hosta* 'Limey Lisa'

62.-64. Other plantings of troughs

65. Closing slide

66. The end

expect hypertufa to cure properly when exposed to high heat or direct sunlight.

Early autumn (late Sept.-early Oct.) or early spring are best, allowing at least 30 days for curing before freezing temperatures are normally expected.

Supplies:

HEAVY Gloves, mask, board, wheelbarrow, water source nearby, spritz bottle of water

I use a couple horses and lay a 3/4" sheet across as my "table", having room to move completely around my surface.

For many size containers, it is more convenient to put a heavy plastic trash bag down on your surface first. Then I put my marked board down. This enables me to just pull the plastic bag up over the completed container and secure the top to give it the optimum environment to cure.

*Build you form first*

Mix all your dry ingredients together first. Then add water, acrylic and fiber. Go SLOW with adding the water. It may not require all of it. Mix all the acrylic fortifier with half the water called for. Toss in a handful of fiber. Mix thoroughly. To test the mix, take a small amount in your gloved hand and squeeze. If the mix forms a ball and just a small amount of water runs out, stop mixing. At this point, the clock is ticking.

Mix: All measurements are given in PARTS. Part is whatever container you are using to measure the dry ingredients. Be consistent for success. We used plastic quart containers in each ingredient.

1 part cement

1 ½ parts screened peat

1 ½ parts perlite

Water may be 1 to 1 ½ parts. It is important to go slowly with the water.

To give you an idea of "how much hypertufa does it take to make a ...?"

## Creating And Planting Garden Troughs

Joyce Fingerut & Rex Murfitt

### HYPERTUFA SHOPPING CHECKLIST

#### Supplies for making hypertufa mixture

- Type I Portland cement (not concrete mix)
- Perlite
- Peat, *screened*
- Synthetic reinforcement fibers
- Cement colors
- Liquid acrylic bonding agent (non-revettable type)
- Water supply and hose with shut-off nozzle
- Spray bottle
- Mixing container (mortar pan or wheelbarrow)
- Measuring container
- Hoe, shovel, trowel, etc.
- Scoop (optional)
- 5-gallon bucket (optional)

#### Safety

- STURDY RUBBER GLOVES— an absolute necessity!
- Dust mask
- Protective goggles

#### Supplies for making rectangular trough forms

- Foam insulation boards
- Knife
- Yardstick
- Pencil, pen, or marker
- Nails
- Duct tape (what can we do without it?)
- Forms for drainage holes
- Hardware cloth, *screen wire*
- Landscape fabric

#### Equipment for shaping other troughs

- Oval baking pans (heavy agate pans, not disposable aluminum)
- Pressed peat hanging-basket liners
- Containers (bonsai, bulb pans, Styrofoam™ boxes, etc.)
- Plastic bins and other household containers
- Packed, moist sand for free-form molds or for modifying shapes of other molds

#### Tools for finishing and texturing

- Sturdy household utensils, with dull blades, that are past home use
- Broad knife, screwdriver, asparagus fork, putty knife or pull-type paint scraper
- Wire brush
- Whisk broom
- Surface stains or paints (optional)
- Hand-held propane torch

#### General supplies

- Sturdy wooden board, slightly larger than the planned trough, for moving it before it dries
- Plastic sheeting
- Scissors
- Sieve (optional)
- Large container to hold sieved peat
- Medium container to hold fluffed-up reinforcement fibers
- Tables (optional; it may be easier to work on the ground)
- Knee pads (optional, for people working on the ground)

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